

Sermon Sparkler for the Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

One of the categories I pinpointed as unique to Luke is focusing on discipleship as involving repentance and persistent prayer. Today we are given an opportunity to look at persistent prayer.

We start with Luke's version of the Lord's Prayer and then move along to a parable.

There are two things to remember from this parable.

First, when we call to God in prayer, we do not call upon an enemy or some ruthless foe, but instead, we call upon a friend and a parent. This, Luther explains in his Catechism, is why we begin the Lord's Prayer, "Our Father." It reminds us to come to God as a child coming to a loving and good parent.

Second, we ought to be persistent with our prayer. Pointing to Luther again, we ought to "rub God's promises into God's ears."

How does the Lord's Prayer sound different when we clearly hear God's kindness when we pray, "Our Father"? How does it sound differently when we pray "Your Kingdom Come" fervently, our memorization of this prayer not leading to a cold praying of it, but instead praying by heart?

- ✎ Could the image of friend found in today's parable help folk who have a hard time calling God Father? How could you make this plain for them?
- ✎ What resources could you equip your congregation with to help them pray persistently?